

### **In The Claims**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A pad for improving a geosynthetically reinforced segmental retaining wall system, the pad comprising:

a resilient material for being disposed between block layers in a segmental retaining wall, the pad for ~~transferring~~ increasing the transfer of a tensile load from a geosynthetic soil reinforcing material to the segmental retaining wall block face by at least fourteen percent.

2. (Original) The pad of claim 1, wherein the resilient material is shaped to substantially match the shape of the horizontal surface of the blocks.

3. (Currently Amended) The pad of claim 1, wherein the resilient material consists of one or more of the following:

polyvinyl chloride (PVC);  
a needlepunched nonwoven geotextile; or  
a polymeric foam applied to a scrim.

4. (Original) A pad for reinforcing a segmental retaining wall, the pad comprising:  
a resilient material that has a thickness sufficient to substantially fill voids  
and uneven surfaces between adjacent horizontal surfaces of retaining  
blocks.

5. (Previously presented) A block pad that is composed of a planar material consisting of: a polymeric geomembrane, a nonwoven needlepunched product, or a scrim with foam covering.

6. (Original) A pad for insertion between courses of segmental block wall to fit the block shape and that provides a frictional connection between a soil reinforcing geosynthetic and the wall.

7. (Original) A pad that provides an interlayer of dissimilar material to the concrete block that reduces cracking of the blocks once installed because of its thickness and compressibility.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A geosynthetically reinforced segmental retaining wall system, comprising:

a plurality of stacked blocks;

a geosynthetic soil reinforcing material disposed between adjoining stacked blocks; and

a pad comprising a resilient material for being disposed between the stacked blocks,

the pad for ~~transferring~~ increasing the transfer of a tensile load from the

geosynthetic soil reinforcing material to the segmental retaining wall by at

least fourteen percent.

10. (Previously presented) The wall system of claim 9, wherein the resilient material is shaped to substantially match the shape of a horizontal surface of the blocks.

11. (Previously presented) The wall system of claim 9, wherein the resilient material consists of one or more of the following:

- polyvinyl chloride (PVC);
- a needlepunched nonwoven geotextile; or
- a polymeric foam applied to a scrim.

12. (Previously presented) The wall system of claim 9, wherein the pad comprises:

- a resilient material that has a thickness sufficient to substantially fill voids and uneven surfaces between adjacent horizontal surfaces of retaining blocks.

13. (Previously presented) The wall system of claim 9 wherein the pad is made of a material consisting of:

- a polymeric geomembrane, or a nonwoven needlepunched product, or a scrim with foam covering.

14. (Previously presented) The wall system of claim 9, wherein the pad for insertion between the stacked blocks is shaped to fit the block shape and provides a frictional connection between a soil reinforcing geosynthetic and the wall.

15. (Previously presented) The wall system of claim 9, wherein the pad provides an interlayer of dissimilar material to the concrete block that reduces cracking of the blocks once installed because of its thickness and compressibility.

16. (New) A method for constructing a segmental block retaining wall comprising the steps of:

- stacking a plurality of blocks;
- disposing a geosynthetic soil reinforcing material between a pair of vertically stacked blocks; and
- disposing a pad of resilient material between the pair of vertically adjoining stacked blocks and adjacent to the geosynthetic soil reinforcing material, wherein the pad increases the transfer of a tensile load from the geosynthetic soil reinforcing material to the segmental block retaining wall by at least fourteen percent as compared to a tensile load that would be transferred without the pad.

17. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the steps of:

disposing the pad between the vertically stacked blocks results from the pad being formed integrally with one of the blocks.

18. (New) The pad of claim 1, wherein the pad is formed integrally with a block.

19. (New) The geosyntheticly reinforced segmental retaining wall system of claim 9, wherein the pad is formed integrally with a block.